EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR KENNETH QUINN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ambassador Kenneth Quinn for receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Distinguished Service Award is the American Farm Bureau Federation's highest honor and is reserved for individuals who have dedicated their careers to the advancement of agriculture. The president of Iowa Farm Bureau, Craig Hill, nominated Ambassador Quinn to receive this esteemed national award.

Dr. Kenneth Quinn's career and achievements are truly ones for the history book. A native Iowan, Kenneth grew up in Dubuque where he obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Loras College. Ambassador Quinn's wide-ranging diplomatic career led to his ascension as one of the federal government's most decorated Foreign Service officers, a top U.S. expert on Indochina, President Ford's Vietnamese interpreter, and ultimately as United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 1996–1999. Dr. Quinn is regarded as the first person to report on the 1974 Cambodian genocide and is the only civilian to receive an Army Air Medal in Vietnam combat operations. Ambassador Quinn is also among the prestigious recipients of the Secretary of State's Award for Heroism and is the only Foreign Service office to receive the American Foreign Service Association Rivkin and Herter Awards for intellectual courage on three occasions.

Following his 32 year career in the Foreign Service, Dr. Quinn began his role as President of the World Food Prize Foundation in 2000. Since assuming this leadership role, Kenneth has overseen tens of millions of dollars in fundraising and the successful distribution of the annual Nobel Prize Food and Agriculture award. His contribution to the legacy of Dr. Norman Borlaug and the World Food Prize Foundation has been nothing short of remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no better recipient for Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award than Ambassador Quinn. The dedication Dr. Quinn has displayed to his state and country throughout his career continues to change our world for the better. Ambassador Quinn's efforts embody the Iowa sprit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him for this achievement, thanking him for his service, and wishing him continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BOWLING TEAM'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lockport Township High School Boys Bowling Team on winning their first Illinois High School Association championship.

Although they were in 12th place earlier in the tournament and risked elimination, the Porters demonstrated toughness and determination to maintain a qualifying position. Their persistence eventually allowed them to overcome a 300 pin deficit.

The Porters averaged an impressive 214 points per game, with their leading scorer and individual state champion, Shane Matejcek, scoring 286 points in his fifth game to help keep his team in contention for the title. Shane would finish with a total of 2,924 pins, the second highest score in state history. The team entered the second day in 3rd place, but emerged victorious after an impressive display of teamwork on a 12 for 13 run of strikes.

This victory is a reminder of how preparation, practice, and perseverance produce solid results, even when facing difficult challenges. Today, I am pleased to call on all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the young men of Lockport Township High School on winning the IHSA championship. Great job, Porters!

NATIONAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH NETWORK ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 4, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 225, the "National Pediatric Research Action Network Act of 2013." This legislation would authorize the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to establish an up to 20 national pediatric research consortia. Each consortium will be a collaborative effort involving a leading pediatric medical center and numerous supporting institutions, and each will focus on both basic and translational research as well as training for new researchers. Additionally, this Act seeks to bring much needed attention to pediatric rare diseases. The intent is to expand, enhance, and improve coordinated NIH pediatric research.

As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus I have been a tireless advocate on behalf of our nation's children for decades and an avid supporter of children's health.

Improved coordination under the guidance of the NIH will only enhance the communication and collaborative efforts between leading regional pediatric medical center and supporting smaller community centers. This will enable researchers to develop and hone their research on rare pediatric diseases such as spinal muscular atrophy, in addition to serving as training centers for new cutting edge research in this field. Researchers like those who work for the Pediatric Research Center.

Located in Houston, TX, the Pediatric Center is the premier research center within the University of Texas Health Science Center. Researchers who work at the center are currently working diligently to identifying the causes of disorders that affect children. They are experts in their fields and working on a variety of issues. One of which is trying to identify genes that result in birth defects.

Across our nation, birth disabilities, developmental disorders, and prematurity are leading cause of death in children, affecting nearly 25% of both newborns and children. We must support efforts to improve research. According to the Texas Department of State Health Services as of 2009, over 19,000 Texas babies are born each year with one or more major structural malformations or chromosomal anomalies.

For every 10,000 live births, about six births are affected by neural tube defects; 11 babies are born with cleft lip, and 13 are born with Down syndrome. Approximately 28.9% of all babies born from 1999–2008 with birth defects have more than one major birth defect. Certain birth defects exhibit higher rates in some racial/ethnic groups than others.

Birth defects are also the leading cause of death among infants in Texas. From 1999–2008, 5.3% of all live born babies delivered with a birth defect died; most died before their first birthday (4.6%) and 29% of all deaths to live born babies before their first birthday occurred among babies with a birth defect.

In 2010, birth defects resulted in nearly 42,000 hospitalizations among infants in Texas, with total charges over $2.2 billion, based on hospital discharge data. The average length of stay was 6.2 days and the average cost was $53,000 per hospitalization. While the average cost per hospitalization is comparable to national data, due to the large population of Texas relative to other states, total cost of hospitalization for infants with birth defects is high.

Texas has unique concerns about some of the potential causes of birth defects such as those concerning environmental pollutants (hazardous waste sites, air pollution, drinking water contaminants), health disparities (income, ethnicity), and maternal factors (diabetes, obesity).

Effective collaboration with the NIH could result in finding cures and treatments to prevent these deaths. Treatments of diseases like Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) Types I, II, and III are a group of hereditary diseases that cause weakness and the destruction of voluntary muscles in the arms and legs of infants and children.